

Appln. No. 10/600,492
Amendment dated March 28, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 23, 2005

REMARKS

In the Office Action of February 23, 2005, the Examiner indicated that claims 12 and 15 were allowable and that claims 18 and 19 included allowable subject matter if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Such finding by the Examiner is hereby acknowledged and appreciated.

In the Office Action, claims 16, 17, 20 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Chen U.S. Patent No. 6,155,743 in view of the Nell U.S. Patent No. 5,857,800. Claim 16 was also rejected under §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Husson U.S. Patent No. 6,439,799 in view of the Nell '800 reference.

By the present Amendment, claim 16 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 18 and the intervening claim 17. Thus, claim 16 is believed to be in condition for allowance.

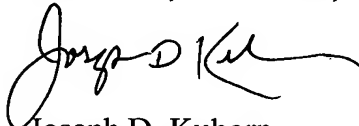
Dependent claims 19-21 have been amended to depend directly from allowable claim 16, such that these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Based upon the present Amendment, claims 12, 15-16 and 19-21 are believed to be in condition for allowance based upon the findings of the Examiner in the most recent Office Action.

The Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's undersigned attorney with any questions or comments, or to otherwise facilitate prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

ANDRUS, SCEALES, STARKE & SAWALL, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joseph D. Kuborn", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph D. Kuborn
Reg. No. 40,689

100 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1100
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202
Attorney Docket No.: 3290-00016
Telephone No. (414) 271-7590